

In re Appln. of CONNORS et al.
Serial No. 09/091,508

3. (Amended) A separation element comprising:

- B*
- (a) *pleated* a pack including a porous medium and a first end and having a length greater than about 40 inches and an interior diameter greater than about 2 inches; and
- (b) an end cap including a first segment mounted to the first end of the pack and a second segment spaced from the first end of the pack, the end cap being extendable from a first position in which the first and second segments are spaced a first distance from each other to a second position in which the first and second segments are spaced a second distance from each other, the second distance being greater than the first distance.

4. A separation element comprising

- A2*
- (a) a pack including a porous medium and a first end; and
- (b) an end cap having a first segment, a second segment mounted to the first end of the pack, and a sealing member coupled to at least one of the first and second segments, the first segment slidably engaged to the second segment such that the first segment is movable between first and second positions, wherein in first position, the sealing member is relaxed, and in the second position, the sealing member is compressed by the first and second segments, thereby energizing the sealing member, and has an outer diameter greater than the outer diameter of the second segment of the end cap.

REMARKS

Claims 5-13 have been rejected and objected to, all of the rejections and objections being respectfully traversed. However, to simplify the issues presented in this application, claims 5-13 have been deleted such that all remaining claims are directed to separation elements. Consequently, all rejections of and objections to claims 5-13 are now moot.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Connors, Jr. USP 5,435,915 in view of Taga USP 4,680,118. This rejection is respectfully traversed.